GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – Registration & Stamps Department – Allegation of tearing and tampering of records against the staff working in Registrar Office (Original Branch), Rajahmundry – Disciplinary proceedings initiated against Smt.N.S.Swarna Kumari, Senior Assistant, Registrar Office (Original Branch), Rajahmundry along with certain others - Regular enquiry conducted – Charges proved - Enquiry report communicated – Representation submitted – Imposing the penalty of stoppage of three annual grade increments with cumulative effect – Orders – Issued.

REVENUE (VIGILANCE-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.958 **Dated:14-09-2017**

Read the following:

1. DR, R&S, Rajahmundry Lr.No.G1/368/2014, dt:30-5-2014.
2. DIG, R&S, Kakinada Lr.No.X/388/2014, dt:9-12-2014 & dt:30-9-2015.
3. DIG, R&S, Kakinada Charge Memo.No.X/388/2014-3, dt:18-11-2014.
4. WSD of Smt.N.S.Swarna Kumari, Sr.Asst., dt:25-11-2014.
5. G.O.Rt.No.1211, Rev (Vig.II) Deptt., dt:27-11-2015.
6. G.O.Rt.No.1212, Rev (Vig.II) Deptt., dt:27-11-2015.
7. G.O.Rt.No.1328, Rev (Vig.II) Deptt., dt:31-12-2015.
8. DIG, R&S, Kakinada Lr.No.X/388/2014-2, dt:1-10-2016.
9. Govt., Memo.No.36555/Vig.II(1)/2014-5, dt:10-1-2017.
10. Representation of the CO Smt.N.S.Swarna Kumari, Sr.Asst., dt:11-2-2017.
11. Govt., Lr.No.36555/Vig.II(1)/2014-6, dt:13-6-2017.
12. APPSC Lr.No.511/DC&C/1/2017, dt:12-7-2017.

@@@

ORDER:

Whereas, in the reference 2nd read above, the Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Kakinada has brought to the notice of the Government that certain officials of Registration & Stamps department who worked previously in the Registrar Office (Original Branch), Rajahmundry from 2011 onwards were involved in tearing and tampering of records in Registrar Office (Original Branch), Rajahmundry.

2. And whereas, in the reference 3rd read above, the Disciplinary Authority i.e., the Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Kakinada, initiated disciplinary proceedings against Smt.N.S.Swarna Kumari, Senior Asistant, Registrar Office (Original Branch), Rajahmundry along with certain others duly framing the following charges:-

Charge-I: That you Smt.N.S.Swarna Kumari, while working as Senior Asistant / Record Keeper, Registrar Office (Original Branch), Rajahmundry committed grave misconduct in as much as she failed to safeguard and preserve the records of the office as Record Keeper.

The Preliminary Enquiry Officer has reported that one Sri Addepalli Chenna Kesava, S/o. late Nageswara Rao, R/o. Rajahumdry alleged that the Registrar Office, Rajahmundry issued copies of three fake documents with Doc. Nos.5093/1974 dt.30.12.1974; 6088/1979 dt.24.12.1979 and 6149/1979 dt.28.12.1979 claiming that the property was purchased by one Sri Tadi Sura Reddy and who in turn sold the property to Sri Nallamilli Venkata Reddy and Padala Venakata Reddy.

Torn out and replacement with fake pages in Book-I:
Volume No.1247 – Pages 65 to 73 (3 sheets)
Page No.47 to 64.

Contd.2.

Apart from the above, the relevant pages in index I & II were also torn out in order to disappearance of evidence. Verification of the D-Account Registrar discloses the following details with regard to movement of the relevant Volumes of Book-I:

S.No	Date of taking the relevant volume for preparing C.C.	S.No. & C.No.	Doc. No. meant for C.C.	Volume No
1	22.3.2011	1532/11 & 1463/11	5093/74	1247
2	5.6.2013	3575/13 & 3508/13	5093/74	1247
3	5.6.2013	3576/13 & 3509/13	6088/79	1427
4	5.6.2013	3577/13 & 3510/13	6149/79	1433
5	7.6.2013	3636/13 & 3569/13	6088/79	1427
6	7.6.2013	3637/13 & 3568/13	5093/74	1247
7	10.6.2013	3662/13 & 3593/13	6149/79	1433
8	28.2.2014	232/14 & 1427/14	6149/79	1433
9	28.2.2014	233/14 & 1428/14	6088/79	1247

Other than the T.I. Registers the Record Keeper is solely responsible for safeguard of the records under lock and keys as per the instructions in vogue.

CHARGE-II:

That you Smt.N.S.Swarna kumari, while working as Senior Assistant/Record Keeper, Registrar Office (Original Branch), Rajahmundry committed grave misconduct in as much as she failed to maintain the statutory registers like Record Issue Register as required under S.O. No.1149 per the guidelines given in the Standing Orders, wherein it was clearly spelt out that no record should be taken out without entry being made in Register, which should be opened in the prescribed format. Such a lapse was observed by the Preliminary Enquiry Officer during the enquiry preliminary conducted by him in connection with the tampering of official records. On account of such gross negligence committed by Sri G.Nagesh, the then Senior Assistant/Record Keeper, Registrar Office (Original Branch), Rajahmundry, now retired , the task of identifying the culprits indulged in tampering/tearing of pages and replacement with fake sheets has become very difficult, for which Smt.N.S.Swarna Kumari is squarely responsible.

Thus, Smt.N.S.Swarnakumari, acted in a manner which is unbecoming of a Governement servant and thereby contravened provisions of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

3. The Charged Officer submitted Written Statement of Defence in the reference 4th read above. Due to involvement of certain Retired officials along with in service officials, the Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Kakinada has sent proposals for conducting common enquiry as all of them were involved in common irregularity vide reference 2nd read above.

4. And whereas, in the reference 5th read above, Government have ordered for common enquiry against all the 25 Registration officials who were commonly involved in the allegation of tearing and tampering of records in the Registrar Office (Original Branch), Rajahmundry.

5. In the refrences 6th & 7th read above, Government have appointed the Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Kakinada as Inquiring Authority and the District Registrar, Registration & Stamps, Machilipatnam as Presenting Officer.

Contd.3.

6. The Inquiring Authority in the reference 8th read above has furnished the Inquiry report wherein he held that the charges framed against Smt.N.S.Swarna Kumari, Senior Assistanat, Registrar Office (Original Branch), Rajahmundry were proved.

7. Government have examined the matter and in the reference 9th read above, communicated a copy of report to the Charged Officer for offering her representation if any on the findings of Inquiring Authority.

8. And whereas, in the reference 10th read above, the Charged Officer has submitted her representation stating among others that ever since she joined Registrar Office (Original Branch), Rajamahendravaram, she was instructed to attend the work of marriage registrations only and stated that there is no sufficient space in the record room of Registrar Office (Original Branch), Rajamahendravaram to arrange her seat in the record room as it was fully occupied with bulk of records and registers. She has further stated that the Record Issue Register has not been maintained to the best of her knowledge and belief. Therefore, she was not aware of the movements of the registers in and out from the record room to the office room and from the office room to the record room and stated that the above fact was submitted before and after the departmental enquiry. When she was not allotted the duties of Record Keeper either orally or in writing, the charges cannot be held as proved against her.

9. She has further stated that Sri K. Pullam Raju who was included in the list of charged officers since he worked as Record Keeper / Senior Assistant for two months from 1-7-2011 to 31-8-2011 and he contended that prior to his joining, the Doc.Nos.5093/74, 6088/79, 6149/79 were tampered prior to 22-3-2011. His explanation was considered and charges framed against him were held not proved and when such was the case, the charges against her also were to be held as not proved since she joined after him. She has further stated that just prior to her Sri K. Srinivasa Reddy, worked as Senior Assistant and Record Keeeper from 1-7-2011 to 31-8-2011 and Sri Adabala Nageswara Rao worked as senior assistant / record keeper as well as market value Senior Assistant from 01-09-2011 to 13-02-2012 and charges against them were not proved, whereas in her case the charges were held proved by invoking SOs 1112 and 1113. She has further stated that the preliminary enquiry officer observed in his report as it is very difficult to pin point against any individual without thorough investigation. She therefore stated that no specific evidence came forth against her and stated that the charge is not definite as to when and what date, the tampering took place. She also stated that till date no action has been taken against the real culprits who got the Records tamper for their wrongful gain using them in filing writ petition, no proper enquiry has been made to identify the staff who connived with the culprits. While stating the above, the Charged Officer has requested the Government to consider her representation and to drop further proceedings against her in the interest of justice.

10. The representation of the Charged Officer was examined keeping in view the findings of the Inquiring Authority, and it is observed that the Charged Officer is allotted the duties of the record keeper by the Joint Sub Registrar-I and the duties of the record keeper were clearly mentioned in Proceedings No.G1/24170/1977, dated:12.09.77 of the Inspector General of Registration and Stamps, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad. It is further observed that as per S.O.1112 & 1113(i), the Charged Officer is individually and collectively responsible for tampering, loss of destruction of records and also responsible for the safety of the records as a Record Keeper. It is further observed that the Charged Officer failed to maintain the Record Issue Register required by S.O.1149 which is a serious lapse on her part and as such, it is established that she has not performed her duties faithfully.

Contd.4.

11. After careful consideration of the mater it has been provisionally decided to impose a penalty of stoppage of three annual grade increments with cumulative effect against the Charged Officer and sought for concurrence of Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commisson in the reference 11th read above.

12. And whereas in the reference 12th read above, the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission have agreed with the proposal of the Government (copy enclosed to the Charged Officer).

13. Accordingly, Government, hereby impose a penalty of stoppage of three annual grade increments with cumulative effect against Smt.N.S.Swarna Kumari, Senior Asistant / Record Keeper, Registrar Office (Original Branch), Rajahmundry.

14. The Director & Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh and Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Kakinada shall take necessary action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

Dr.D.SAMBASIVA RAO
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (CT, EXCISE & R&S)

To
The Director & Inspector General, Registration & Stamps,
Andhra Pradesh, Eedupugallu, Vijayawada, Krishna District.
The Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Kakinada
The Individual (w.e)
(through the Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps,
Kakinada with a request to serve the order on the individual and
furnish the served copy along with dated acknowledgement to
Government for record).
Copy to:
The Secretary to the Vigilance Commissioner,
Andhra Pradesh Vigilance Commission, Velagapudi, A.P.Secretariat,
Guntur District.
The Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission, Hyderabad.
SF / SC.

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER